Row with EU over Garment Quota

925. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a row is going on with European Union on garment quota, if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when it is likely to be resolved;

(c) the details of shipment held up at European ports and the losses suffered by Indian exporters on that account; and

(d) whether Indian exporters have sought compensation from AEPC for the losses they are suffering, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) Some consignments of garments under EU categories 4, 6 and 26 have been held up in EU ports as annual levels for 1998 in respect of these categories had been exceeded. A delegation of the Apparel Export Promotion Council had been sent to Europe in this regard. The matter has also been taken up bilaterally by the Government with the European Commission as well as with EU Member States. In the meantime, fresh 1999 quotas are being issued for any consignments coming back to India and the customs authorities have taken steps for prompt clearance of any such goods for purpose of re-export to Europe.

According to available information the quantity involved in such held up consignments in three categories is reported to be around two million pieces. Their value is estimated at about Rs. 40 crore. Some exporters have also represented for appropriate compensation in this regard.

Pay packages for scientists of central silk board

926. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter regarding revision of pay package of Central Silk Board scientists, at par with ICAR, is under active consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The issue regarding revision of pay scales to scientific personnel on Central Silk Board (CSB) has been under consideration with the Government of India for sometime. The previous proposal of the Ministry of Textiles was to bring the pay scales of these scientists at par with ICAR. This was, however, not accepted by the Government (Ministry of Finance) on account of the fact that the CSB does not have the status of a 'Deemed University'. Subsequently after discussions with the Association members the Ministry has recommended that keeping in view the specialised functions and responsibilities of the scientists, their pay scales should be equated with similarly placed employees in other R&D organisations such as CSIR and Deptt. of Science and Technology. This proposal is presently under consideration.

ई॰ई॰सी॰ के पत्तनों पर रुके हुए भारतीय परिधान

927. **श्री मुनव्वर हसन:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 30 करोड़ रुपये के भारतीय वस्त्र यूरोपीय आर्थिक संघ (ई॰ई॰सी॰) के देशों के बन्दरगाहों पर रुके पड़े हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं; और

(ग) उक्त वस्त्र बंदरगाहों पर कब से पड़े हैं और सरकार ने निर्यातकों की मदद के लिए कौन से कदम उठाये हैं अथवा उठाने का विचार रखती है?